CLUNK
MMM! THE WIND FEELS GREAT!
IT'S ALSO SUNNY OUT, SO AWESOME~ ♥
I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR INTRODUCING ME TO SUCH A NICE PLACE, BORIS.
THANKS, REALLY. ♥
NO NEED TO GET ALL FORMAL
IT WAS JUST BY CHANCE THAT I FOUND OUT ABOUT THIS PLACE BEING AVAILABLE FOR RENT
SHOPPING IS GOING TO BE PRETTY EASY WITH HOW THIS PLACE IS JUST BY THE ROAD!
the location is the best!
.....

Just in case...
It's also closer to my place than the tower.
This place is surrounded by a major street with some heavy traffic.
Even if the guys hostile towards the Hatter family
set their eyes on Alice,
They shouldn't risk bombing a place like this...
AH!
JOLT!
WHAT!?
LOOK THERE!
I SEE THE SAME SIGNBOARD AS A CAFÉ WHICH SELLS DELICIOUS COOKIES!
MAYBE IT'S A BRANCH STORE? WANNA GO CHECK IT OUT?
Let me treat you as thanks.
CHUCKLE
YOU SEEM HAPPY.

GRAY'S THE ONE WHO TAUGHT ME ABOUT THAT PLACE...
.....
YEAH.
YOU MUST REALLY LIKE THAT SHOP.
YOU THINK SO?
If you're gonna make a face like that,
You should've just stayed in the tower.
HEY, LET'S GO TO THE SHOP~
The coffee is also delicious there.
.....
I get it now.

The tower would've been safer, but...
Well, whatever.
YOU KNOW, ALICE.
I LIKE SCONES BETTER THAN COOKIES.
It's easier for me to visit her this way.
(hug.)
EEH?
(click)
I didn't say anything about scones, Boris
turn

CREAK
...ALICE?
ALI-
(creak)
Sigh
.....
It's just how Lord Nightmare said.
Alice has-
ALICE?

YES, I WANTED TO ASK FOR HER HELP IN SORTING THESE DOCU-MENTS.
IS SHE REST-ING?
looking around
OH, IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR ALICE, SHE LEFT.
SHE DID SAY THAT SHE WOULD LEAVE ONCE THE ASSEMBLY WAS OVER.
DID SHE GO TO THE HATTER MANSION?
.....
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW, ASK THE PERSON HERSELF.
.....
...She really left.
Why?
step
step

EVEN AFTER THAT, I WAS UNSURE OF HOW TO INTERACT WITH HER, AND ENDED UP ACTING DISTANT...
"I CAN'T BE WITH YOU RIGHT NOW"
Because of how I acted at that time...
Is this my fault?
PUNCH
GRAY...
SHIT!
HOW CHILDISH CAN I GET!?
chuckle
ALICE.

Gosh,
I'm a lost case.
AH!
GRAY!

Hmm?
GRAY!
THANK GOOD-NESS I RAN INTO YOU,
There's no way the current Alice would smile at me-
Illusions again?
chuckle

AH!
IF IT'S OKAY I'D LIKE YOU TO HAVE SOME TOO...
THEY'RE FROM THE SHOP YOU TAUGHT ME ABOUT, GRAY.
OH, THAT REMINDS ME! I BOUGHT SOME COOKIES AS A GIFT.
I WAS THINKING OF HELPING NIGHTMARE ARRANGE HIS LETTERS IF YOU WEREN'T FREE.
DO YOU HAVE WORK?
I WENT TO NIGHTMARE'S ROOM, BUT HE SAID HE DIDN'T KNOW WHERE YOU HAD GONE.
patter
patter
jolt
AH, YEAH.
G-GRAY?
ba-dump
ba-dump
That was awkward, wasn't it.
I ended up blabbering because of my nervousness
Yikes,
ACTUALLY...
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
SO CAN YOU HELP LORD NIGHTMARE UNTIL I'M DONE?
It's the real thing...
That took me by surprise.
NOD
NOD
I WANTED TO ASK FOR YOUR HELP AFTERWARDS IN SORTING OUT SOME DOCUMENTS,

I'M SORRY.
I HEARD FROM LORD NIGHTMARE THAT YOU'D LEFT, SO...
Um
I WAS A LITTLE SURPRISED TO SEE YOU.
AH!
REALIZE
I RENT A ROOM IN THE TOWN,
BUT I DON'T PLAN TO STOP WORKING HERE.
TOWN? NOT THE HATTER MANSION?
TO BE HONEST, I CONSIDERED THAT OPTION.
BUT I CAN'T INTRUDE UPON THEM ANY FURTHER.
Fidget
.....
YOU REALLY ARE SO MATURE.
IF IT'S YOU, I THINK ANYONE WOULD BE HONORED TO BE RELIED UPON.
N-NOT AT ALL!
I'M NOT...
BLUSH
.....
BESIDES...
ALICE?
?

I'M SORRY.
ALICE...
I'LL GO HELP NIGHT-MARE!
ALICE!
(turn)
DASH

WILL YOU PLEASE MAKE THREE CUPS OF COFFEE?
YOU WENT THROUGH THE TROUBLE TO BRING COOKIES FOR US. LET'S ENJOY THEM BEFORE STARTING WORK.
BY NOW LORD NIGHTMARE WOULD ALSO HAVE REACHED THE LIMITS OF HIS CONCENTRATION.
Ba-dump
OH...
ALRIGHT, GRAY!
PATTER
PATTER
PATTER

I saw Gray's smiling face after so long...
Ba-dump
Ba-dump
TAP
TAP
.....
happy tears
Gray's...
TAP
TAP
Really...
Com-pared to me, Alice is much more mature.
sigh
I'm the one who should apologize.
.....

I wonder if I need to buy any butter
We have milk in stock, right?
EH, ALICE? YOU COOK?
GIVE ME THREE OF THOSE..
AH, MAKE IT FIVE.
And also...
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PURCHASE
WHOA!
Ace!?
HOW CRUEL~ YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE THAT SHOCKED TO SEE ME.
IT'S NATURAL TO BE SHOCKED!
ANYONE WOULD BE IF SOME BLOOD-STAINED GUY SUDDENLY APPEARED NEXT TO THEM!
WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED?!
OH, THIS?
I'VE BEEN GETTING TARGETED SINCE EARLIER.
I WONDER IF EVERYONE IS GETTING STRESSED FROM HAVING TO BE ACT SO PEACEFULLY DURING THE ASSEMBLY~
...I SEE THAT'S NOT YOUR OWN BLOOD
That's what I was wagering on, though.

ARE YOU PLANNING TO DRAG GRAY INTO A FIGHT AGAIN?
Y-YOU!!
Mr. Lizard~
OH?
YOU DON'T HAVE MR LIZARD WITH YOU?
Kya!
KABOOM
I'D SAY MR. LIZARD ENJOYED IT TOO-
YOU THINK SO?
WHOA!
YOU WERE THE ONE BRAZENLY GOT HIM INVOLVED IN VIOLENCE EVEN WHEN THE ASSEMBLY WAS IN MOTION.
DON'T TROUBLE OTHERS LIKE THAT!
EH?
Seems like a dispute between Mafia groups.
People hostile towards the Hatters are making their move.
WHAT WAS THAT!?
PROBABLY A BOMB~
WHAT THE HECK.
WHY A BOMB?
Look, there

ALL THE GUYS WHO ATTACK THE HATTER MANSION DIRECTLY
GET THEIR TABLES TURNED ON THEM, YOU SEE.
BORIS!
THESE GUYS HAVE A PLAN, DESPITE HOW DUMB THEY SEEM.
IT'S THE SAME GROUP AS BEFORE.
REMEMBER THAT TIME WHEN YOU WERE CHANGING CLOTHES?
CHANGING- ...AH!

That time...
BLUSH
I-I SEE.
BLOOD AND THE OTHERS SURE HAVE IT TOUGH.
HMMM?
ABOUT MR. HATTER...
CHIRP

THAT REMINDS ME,
I HEARD THAT YOU'RE MARRYING MR. HATTER?
Huh!?
What the heck?
The guys who attacked me were talking about it.
That the Hatter Family boss is getting married to the outsider.
THE ONLY OUTSIDER HERE IS YOU, ALI-
Hogwash?
HOGWASH.
SHARPLY
SHEESH, THAT SORT OF NONSENSE RUMORS ARE A PAIN.
I DON'T WANT TO BE CURSED BY THE HOARD OF FANS BLOOD HAS.
Haaa...
OH, SO THAT WAS IT? THANK GOOD-NESS-
IF IT WAS TRUE I'D HAVE STABBED YOU.
HUH?

Why!?
What have I done to warrant being stabbed?!
WHY, YOU SAY...
WHY...
I WONDER WHY...
THUD
...
BORIS!
stare

You call that killing intent a joke?
I GOT A GOOD BARGAIN~ ♥
ARE YOU GONNA MAKE APPLE JAM?
FORGET ABOUT IT~ WOW, YOU BOUGHT A LOT OF APPLES.
!!!
I CAN'T LAUGH.
Geez guys, that was a joke~ You're supposed to laugh here. ♥
I see.. so that was a joke.
Hahaha
Hahaha
THE CORD OF THE LAMPSTAND SHOULD BE AROUND HERE...
Ah, it's dark.
creak
chuckle
grab
Got it! ♥

Welcome back, Alice.
WHOA!
CLICK
(Pull)
WHO IS IT?!
BLOOD.
STEP
STEP
What are you doing, invading a person's home without permission?
TO TELL THE TRUTH,
THE TEA-ROOM I WAS ORIGINALLY HEADED TOWARDS GOT BLOWN UP.
sigh
AT A LOSS ABOUT WHAT TO DO, THE IDEA OF CALLING UPON THE ROOM I'D HEARD YOU'RE RENTING IN TOWN CAME TO MIND
AH!
THE EXPLOSION EARLIER WAS AT THE TEA-ROOM?

MY MY, YOU GET COLDER WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT.
steam
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT ABOUT? HOW ON EARTH DID SUCH A RUMOR SPREAD!?
THA-!
AH!
ENGA-?
HOW VERY INHOSPITABLE. AREN'T WE ENGAGED?
BUT WAIT! THAT DOESN'T EXCUSE YOU TO STEP INSIDE PEOPLE'S ROOMS AS YOU PLEASE!
Yeah!
Motivation level=MAX
LET'S DO THIS!
ELLIOT, IN PARTICULAR, IS ESPECIALLY ENERGETIC.
ALL MY MEN ARE CURRENTLY IN A HUGE UPROAR, PLANNING TO HOLD A GRAND WEDDING CEREMONY FOR US.
YOU DID EXPLAIN TO THEM THAT THIS IS ALL A MISUNDERSTANDING, RIGHT?
NOT REALLY?
THAT'S...
HIS ACTION OF ORDERING SUPPLIES IN LARGE QUANTITIES MAY HAVE DRAWN ATTENTION FROM OTHERS.
THE CHEF MIGHT BE THE ORIGIN OF THE RUMOR.

SIGH
Hey!
Sort this out properly!
THERE'S NO MORE TEA.
I need to brew more
tink
.....
.....
TOC TOC
I DON'T WANT TO BE CURSED BY YOUR FANS BECAUSE OF SOME STUPID MISUNDER-STANDING.
THE FACT THAT YOU FEEL THE NEED TO DENY THIS SO STRONGLY
ISN'T INTERESTING AT ALL.
fwump
ROLL
ROLL
EH?

flop
DON'T BE RIDIC-ULOUS.
INSTEAD... WHY NOT TURN THAT RUMOR INTO A FACT?
I DON'T LIKE JOKING ABOUT SUCH MATTERS.
YOU LIKE MY "FACE", DON'T YOU?
STOP IT!
THEN YOU'D BE OKAY WITH IT IF I GET SERIOUS?

IF IT WERE ME, I WOULDN'T LEAVE YOU TO WORRY BY YOURSELF LIKE THAT MAN DID.
THAT MAN?
lick
JOLT
AH!
WHAT?
WH-
HA...
HA HA HA
SILENCE
!?

I BOUGHT THE BREAD YOU ASKED FOR, IT'S EVEN FRESHLY BAKED.
BORIS...
AH!
HA HA HA HA!
THEY EVEN THREW IN SOME CROISSANT AS AN EXTRA~ ♥
WHERE SHOULD I PUT THESE? ON THE TABLE?
WAH!
HOW DISTASTE-FUL
INTER-RUPTING PEOPLE WHEN THEY'RE JUST GETTING TO THE GOOD PARTS...
LET ME THROW THAT RIGHT BACK AT YA. YOU ALSO DIDN'T STOP EVEN THOUGH YOU HAD NOTICED ME ENTERING.
DO YOU HAVE THAT TYPE OF INTERESTS?
WHA-!
HA HA!
rustle

I GET IT NOW!
YOU TWO GANGED UP TO MAKE FUN OF ME, DIDN'T YOU?
HA HA HA
NOT AT ALL~
AH!
DO IT FASTER!
DIDN'T I DO THAT?
YOU SHOULD'VE HELPED ME!
YOU HAD BEEN WATCHING THE WHOLE TIME. BORIS?
THAT'S SO MEAN!
HA HA
GRRR
AHAHA HAHA HAHA
I'LL HELP YOU OUT.
LEAVING THAT ASIDE, WEREN'T YOU GONNA MAKE SOME STEW?
exhale

"I RENT A ROOM IN THE TOWN..."
She said her room was by the main road...
.....
Would one of lights belong to Alice?
No, she might be sleeping because it's night-time.
...It's selfish of me, but...
EXHALE
Just knowing that she didn't go to the Hatters makes my irritation until now disappear so easily...
ALRIGHT, GRAY!
But....

WHAT IS THIS SENSE OF LOSS?
(GRIP)
ALICE IS NO LONGER HERE.
THAT ALONE MAKES THIS TOWER SEEM LIKE NOTHING MORE THAN A LUMP OF DARKNESS AND VOID.
THE LIGHTS OF THE TOWN LOOK SO DAZZLING...
ALICE...
IT SEEMS LIKE NOT HAVING YOU NEARBY
sigh
REDUCES ME TO A HOLLOW SHELL...

AS I IMPATIENTLY AWAIT HER ARRIVAL, FEAR BEGINS TO GRIP MY MIND.
SHE'LL COME TO VISIT US,
Alice should be coming to the tower after two more time periods.
No, it's different.
I should be different from how I was back then.
The me from before meeting Lord Nightmare probably was like that too...
Disappear...
SMOKE
BUT AFTER THAT, ONCE AGAIN SHE'LL...
HIDE HER AWAY IN SOME PLACE THAT NO ONE KNOWS EXCEPT ME....
BLINDFOLD HER
BEFORE THAT CAN HAPPEN, IT'D BE BETTER TO IMPRISON HER IN SHACKLES

CHILL
AND MAKE HER MINE AND MINE ALONE....
chuckle
Maybe the realization that I haven't changed from those days
can be considered a progress in itself?
SIGH
I'll lose Alice forever if I don't limit these thoughts within the boundaries of mere fantasies.

turn
TAP
IF SHE LEARNS WHAT SORT OF PERSON I TRULY AM...
I can only keep up appearances so my nature isn't exposed.
And continue playing the part of a serious and mature adult.
Hmm,
I should call out to her myself
the next time Alice and I run into each other.

?
IT WOULD BE EITHER LORD NIGHTMARE OR SIR GRAY...
I WAS TOTALLY SURE THAT
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
And apologize properly...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE WEDDING! I HEARD ABOUT IT IN TOWN.
SHOCK
THAT THE BOSS OF THE HATTER FAMILY AND THE OUTSIDER ARE GETTING MARRIED.
MISS ALICE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO'D BE REFERRED TO AS 'THE OUTSIDER', RIGHT?
OH,
COME TO THINK OF IT, THEY SEEMED PRETTY CLOSE DURING THE ASSEMBLY AS WELL...
BUT THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT!
GASP

NO NO, IT SEEMS LIKE THE CHEF AT THE HATTERS SAID SO HIMSELF.
THAT THEY'RE HAVING THIS HUGE WEDDING CEREMONY SOON AND HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL BECAUSE OF THAT.
SEE YA LATER, ALICE. THANKS FOR THE FOOD.
(click)
sigh
Finally a moment alone.
YEAH, SEE YOU SOON.

creak
clink
Let's wash them quickly. They don't need to be perfect.
HMM?
I enjoyed hanging out with everyone,
but their hijinks coupled with how hectic work was got me tired.
patter patter
OH NO, IF I DON'T CLOSE THE DOOR PROPERLY IT'LL GET BLOWN OPEN BY THE WIND.
CLACK
AH!
CREAK
sniff
I SMELL SOMETHING SWEET,
MAYBE IT'S THE BAKER FROM NEXT DOOR?
I Feel full from the smell alone~

WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING?
.....
I-I SHOULD BE THE ONE ASKING YOU THAT. YOU'RE PRACTICALLY RADIATING KILLING INTENT.
.....
THERE'S A LOT OF WORK THAT PILED UP DURING THE ASSEMBLY.
PLEASE WORK HARD.
THUD
Y-YOU KNOW THAT OPENING THE ASSEMBLY TIRES ME OUT!
YOU SHOULD APPRECIATE MY EFFORTS ONCE IN A WHILE AND LET ME REST!
boo boo
Lord Night-mare...
HMM?

GRIN
I HEARD RUMORS ABOUT ALICE GETTING MARRIED TO THE HATTER,
DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT?
Look at you, all worried about it~ ♥
FLOP
I AM worried.
OH?
I didn't expect you to honestly admit that.
ANYONE WOULD BE WORRIED BY THEIR COLLEAGUE GETTING MARRIED TO THE MAFIA BOSS.
YOU SHOULD FEEL THE SAME, SINCE FOR YOU ALICE IS BOTH A SUBORDI-NATE AND A FRIEND.
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT REASON-ING?

.....
ASK THE PERSON IN QUESTION DIRECTLY.
argh
WHAT DOES ALICE-
DUNNO.
ANYWAY,
.....
?
What happened? Lord Nightmare.
.CLATTER
ALRIGHT. I'LL ASK HER DIRECTLY.
EH?
ALICE...
ALICE'S CONSCIOUSNESS SUDDENLY GOT CUT OFF....

HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED.

Mad Hatter Scans

Translator: Vocaotome

Cleaner: Divina126

Typesetter: Vocaotome

QC'er: Zippy

madhatterscans.hanelibri.net

madhatterscans@gmail.com